



Observation of new resonances decaying to $J/\psi K^+$ and $J/\psi \phi$

LHCb collaboration[†]

Abstract

The first observation of exotic states with a new quark content $c\bar{c}u\bar{s}$ decaying to the $J/\psi K^+$ final state is reported with high significance from an amplitude analysis of the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ decay. The analysis is carried out using proton-proton collision data corresponding to a total integrated luminosity of 9 fb^{-1} collected by the LHCb experiment at centre-of-mass energies of 7, 8 and 13 TeV. The most significant state, $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$, has a mass of $4003 \pm 6^{+4}_{-14} \text{ MeV}$, a width of $131 \pm 15 \pm 26 \text{ MeV}$, and spin-parity $J^P = 1^+$, where the quoted uncertainties are statistical and systematic, respectively. A new $1^+ X(4685)$ state decaying to the $J/\psi \phi$ final state is also observed with high significance. In addition, the four previously reported $J/\psi \phi$ states are confirmed and two more exotic states, $Z_{cs}(4220)^+$ and $X(4630)$, are observed with significance exceeding five standard deviations.

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Since the discovery of the $X(3872)$ state by the Belle experiment in 2003 [1], more than twenty non-conventional hadrons that contain $c\bar{c}$ or $b\bar{b}$ quarks have been uncovered [2]. In contrast to the neutral states, charged states like $Z_c(3900)^+$ [3, 4] and $Z_c(4430)^+$ [5–7] provide evidence for tetraquark exotic states, because light quarks are required to account for the non-zero electric charge in addition to the heavy quarkonium.¹ Previously, only the u or d quarks were observed to constitute the light quark content of such charged exotic states, even though the existence of a Z_{cs} state as a strangeness-flavour partner of the $Z_c^+(3900)$ state has been predicted [8–12]. Recently, the BESIII experiment reported a 5.3 standard deviation (σ hereafter) observation of a threshold structure in the mass distribution of $D_s^- D^{*0} + D_s^{*-} D^0$ pairs produced in e^+e^- annihilation as recoil against a K^+ meson [13].

In this Letter, the first observation of two charged $Z_{cs}^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ states is reported from an updated amplitude analysis of the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ decay, as well as the observation of two more $X \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ states. The analysis is based on the combined proton-proton (pp) collision data collected using the LHCb detector in Run 1 at centre-of-mass energies \sqrt{s} of 7 and 8 TeV, corresponding to a total integrated luminosity of 3 fb^{-1} , and in Run 2 at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 6 fb^{-1} .

With Run 1 data, LHCb performed the first amplitude analysis of the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ decay, investigating the $J/\psi \phi$ structure [14, 15] in addition to the kaon excitations (hereafter indicated as K^{*+}). The decay amplitude was constructed using the helicity formalism in six dimensions which, in addition to the Dalitz plane variables describing the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ decay, made use of the $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ and the $\phi \rightarrow K^+ K^-$ decay angles, providing the best sensitivity to the contributing resonances and the determination of their quantum numbers. Resonance lineshapes were parametrised using the Breit-Wigner approximation. The data were described with seven $K^{*+} \rightarrow \phi K^+$ resonances, four $X \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ structures, and non-resonant (NR) ϕK^+ and $J/\psi \phi$ contributions. The four X structures and the NR $J/\psi \phi$ contribution were observed with significance above 5σ . The existence of the $X(4274)$ state was established. The J^{PC} quantum numbers of the $X(4140)$ and $X(4274)$ states were determined as 1^{++} above 5σ level, and as 0^{++} for the $X(4500)$ and $X(4700)$ states above 4σ (the recent PDG convention labels these states as χ_{cJ} [2]). Notably, the $X(4140)$ width was substantially larger than previously determined [16–18]. In the Run 1 analysis, $Z_{cs}^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ contributions were also tested [14, 15]. Around a 3σ evidence for a Z_{cs}^+ state was found, but deemed insufficient to claim discovery of an exotic state with a new quark content.

The LHCb detector is a single-arm forward spectrometer covering the pseudorapidity range $2 < \eta < 5$, described in detail in Refs. [19, 20]. Simulation is produced with software packages described in Refs. [21–24]. The $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi(\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) \phi(\rightarrow K^+ K^-) K^+$ signal candidates are first required to pass an online event selection performed by a trigger [25] dedicated for selecting J/ψ candidates. The signal decay is reconstructed by combining the J/ψ candidate with three kaon candidates with a total charge of one unit. The ϕ candidate is selected by requiring only one of two $K^+ K^-$ combinations to be consistent with the known ϕ mass [2] within $\pm 15 \text{ MeV}$.²

The offline selection involves a loose preselection, followed by a multivariate classifier based on a Gradient Boosted Decision Tree (BDTG) [26, 27]. The preselection is similar to

¹Charge conjugation is implied throughout this Letter.

²Natural units with $\hbar = c = 1$ are used throughout.

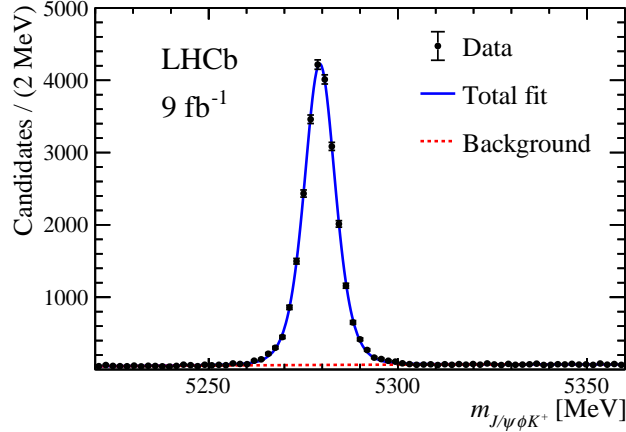


Figure 1: Invariant-mass distribution of selected $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ candidates with the fit overlaid.

that used in Refs. [14, 15] but the requirement on the χ_{IP}^2 of kaon candidates is loosened, where χ_{IP}^2 is defined as the difference in the vertex-fit χ^2 of the event primary pp collision vertex (PV) candidate, reconstructed with and without the particle considered. The BDTG response is constructed using eight variables: the kaon minimum χ_{IP}^2 , the minimum kaon particle identification probability, and the scalar sum of kaon momentum component transverse to the beam direction (p_{T}), the B^+ candidate p_{T} , its decay vertex-fit quality, the B^+ χ_{IP}^2 , the χ^2 of the flight distance with respect to the associated PV, and the angle between the reconstructed momentum direction and the vector connecting the associated PV and the B^+ decay vertex, where the associated PV is the one that gives the smallest χ_{IP}^2 among all PVs. The BDTG is trained on simulated $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ decays generated uniformly in phase space for the signal sample, and data from the B^+ candidate invariant mass sidebands for the background sample. The requirement on the BDTG response is chosen to maximise the signal significance multiplied by the purity [28].

A kinematic fit [29] is applied to the reconstructed $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ decay to improve the mass resolution, where the J/ψ candidate mass is constrained to its known value [2] and the B^+ candidate is constrained to originate from the associated PV. The resulting invariant-mass distribution of the B^+ candidates is shown in Fig. 1, fitted with the signal modelled by a Hypatia function [30] and the combinatorial background by a second-order polynomial function, yielding $24\,220 \pm 170$ signal candidates with a combinatorial-background fraction of 4.0% within a ± 15 MeV signal region. The region also includes additional $\sim 2\%$ of non- ϕ $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+ K^- K^+$ background candidates, which are neglected in the amplitude model but considered in the evaluation of the systematic uncertainties. The candidates in the signal region are retained for further amplitude analysis. Compared to the previous Run 1 analysis [14, 15], the total signal yield is ~ 6 times larger, owing to a larger dataset and a 15% higher signal efficiency. The fraction of combinatorial background is almost a factor of six smaller while that of the non- ϕ background is unchanged.

A second kinematic fit is performed to improve the momentum resolution of the final-state particles by further constraining the $J/\psi \phi K^+$ candidate mass to the known B^+ mass value [2]. The updated particle momenta are used to calculate the fit observables in the amplitude analysis. Fig. 2 shows the Dalitz plots for candidates in the B^+ signal region. The most apparent features are four bands in the $J/\psi \phi$ mass distribution, corresponding

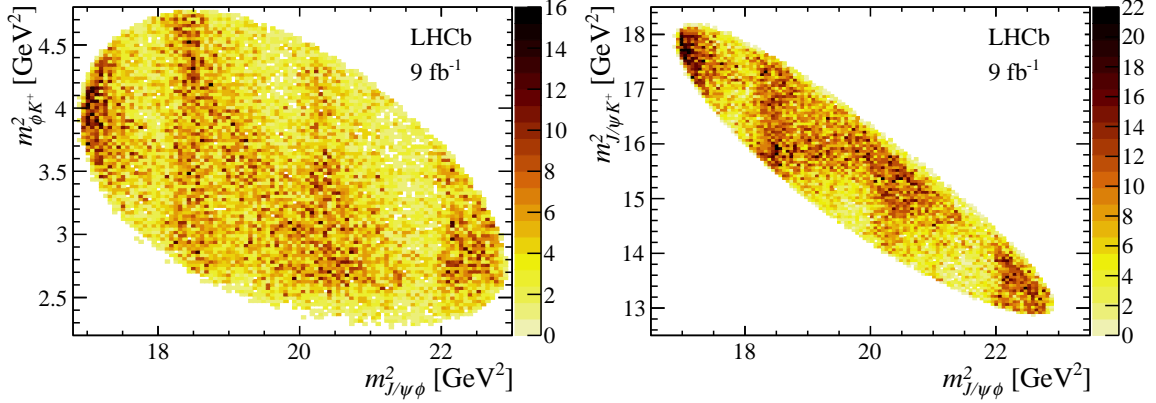


Figure 2: Dalitz plots for $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ candidates in a region ± 15 MeV around the B^+ mass peak.

to the previously reported $X(4140)$, $X(4274)$, $X(4500)$ and $X(4700)$ states. There is also a distinct band near 16 GeV^2 of the $J/\psi K^+$ mass squared.

To investigate the resonant structures, a full amplitude fit is performed using an unbinned maximum-likelihood method. The likelihood definition and the total probability density function (PDF), which includes a signal and a background component, are described in the previous publication [15]. The signal B^+ decay is described in the helicity formalism by three decay chains: $K^{*+}(\rightarrow \phi K^+)J/\psi$, $X(\rightarrow J/\psi \phi)K^+$ and $Z_{cs}^+(\rightarrow J/\psi K^+)\phi$. Each chain is fully described by one mass and five angular observables. For example, the conventional K^{*+} chain has the following six observables $\Phi \equiv (m_{\phi K}, \theta_{K^*}, \theta_{J/\psi}, \theta_{\phi}, \Delta\varphi_{K^*, J/\psi}, \Delta\varphi_{K^*, \phi})$, where θ denotes the helicity angles, and $\Delta\varphi$ the angles between two decay planes. Due to the non-scalar final-state particles (μ^+ and μ^-), an azimuthal angle α_{μ}^i is required to align the helicity frames of μ^+ and μ^- between the chain i and the reference K^{*+} chain [6, 7, 31].

The model used in the previous study (Run 1 model) is first tested. Due to the increased sample size, the model requires improvements (see Fig. 3 bottom row). To improve the K^{*+} model, the tails of the $K^*(1410)$, $K(1460)$, and $K_1(1400)$ resonances with poles just below the ϕK^+ mass threshold are included. The tail of the $K_1(1400)$ leads to a better description of the data than the $J^P = 1^+$ NR component previously used, as well as the introduction of the 0^- $K(1460)$ contribution describes the data better than the previously used but insignificant state at 1.8 GeV . Nine K^{*+} states are included in the default model as listed in Table 1. Seven more K^{*+} states predicted in the allowed ϕK^+ mass range by the relativistic potential model by Godfrey-Isgur [32] are tested, but since these components are not above 5σ significance, they are considered only in the systematic studies. At the next step, X or Z_{cs}^+ states of different J^P hypotheses are tested in the fit one at a time. The two states (1^+ Z_{cs}^+ and 1^+ X) which produce the largest likelihood improvements are included first. In the second iteration, several other states produce large fit improvements, a Z_{cs}^+ state (either 1^+ or 1^-), and two X states with 1^- and 2^- , are also included in the default model. In total, nine K^{*+} , seven X , two Z_{cs}^+ , and one $J/\psi \phi$ NR component, including three new X and two Z_{cs}^+ components, are taken as the default model. All of these components have a statistical significance above 5σ , as evaluated by taking them out of the model one at a time. No further components are found which satisfy this criterion.

Table 1: Fit results from the default amplitude model. The significances are evaluated accounting for total (statistical) uncertainties. The listed masses and widths without uncertainties are taken from PDG [2] and are fixed in the fit. The listed world averages of the two K_2 and $K^*(1680)$ resonances do not contain the contributions from the previous LHCb Run 1 results.

Contribution	Significance [$\times\sigma$]	M_0 [MeV]	Γ_0 [MeV]	FF [%]
All $K(1^+)$				$25 \pm 4^{+6}_{-15}$
2^1P_1 $K(1^+)$	4.5 (4.5)	$1861 \pm 10^{+16}_{-46}$	$149 \pm 41^{+231}_{-23}$	
2^3P_1 $K'(1^+)$	4.5 (4.5)	$1911 \pm 37^{+124}_{-48}$	$276 \pm 50^{+319}_{-159}$	
1^3P_1 $K_1(1400)$	9.2 (11)	1403	174	$15 \pm 3^{+3}_{-11}$
All $K(2^-)$				$2.1 \pm 0.4^{+2.0}_{-1.1}$
1^1D_2 $K_2(1770)$	7.9 (8.0)	1773	186	
1^3D_2 $K_2(1820)$	5.8 (5.8)	1816	276	
All $K(1^-)$				$50 \pm 4^{+10}_{-19}$
1^3D_1 $K^*(1680)$	4.7 (13)	1717	322	$14 \pm 2^{+35}_{-8}$
2^3S_1 $K^*(1410)$	7.7 (15)	1414	232	$38 \pm 5^{+11}_{-17}$
$K(2^+)$				
2^3P_2 $K_2^*(1980)$	1.6 (7.4)	$1988 \pm 22^{+194}_{-31}$	$318 \pm 82^{+481}_{-101}$	$2.3 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.7$
$K(0^-)$				
2^1S_0 $K(1460)$	12 (13)	1483	336	$10.2 \pm 1.2^{+1.0}_{-3.8}$
$X(2^-)$				
$X(4150)$	4.8 (8.7)	$4146 \pm 18 \pm 33$	$135 \pm 28^{+59}_{-30}$	$2.0 \pm 0.5^{+0.8}_{-1.0}$
$X(1^-)$				
$X(4630)$	5.5 (5.7)	$4626 \pm 16^{+18}_{-110}$	$174 \pm 27^{+134}_{-73}$	$2.6 \pm 0.5^{+2.9}_{-1.5}$
All $X(0^+)$				$20 \pm 5^{+14}_{-7}$
$X(4500)$	20 (20)	$4474 \pm 3 \pm 3$	$77 \pm 6^{+10}_{-8}$	$5.6 \pm 0.7^{+2.4}_{-0.6}$
$X(4700)$	17 (18)	$4694 \pm 4^{+16}_{-3}$	$87 \pm 8^{+16}_{-6}$	$8.9 \pm 1.2^{+4.9}_{-1.4}$
NR $_{J/\psi\phi}$	4.8 (5.7)			$28 \pm 8^{+19}_{-11}$
All $X(1^+)$				$26 \pm 3^{+8}_{-10}$
$X(4140)$	13 (16)	$4118 \pm 11^{+19}_{-36}$	$162 \pm 21^{+24}_{-49}$	$17 \pm 3^{+19}_{-6}$
$X(4274)$	18 (18)	$4294 \pm 4^{+3}_{-6}$	$53 \pm 5 \pm 5$	$2.8 \pm 0.5^{+0.8}_{-0.4}$
$X(4685)$	15 (15)	$4684 \pm 7^{+13}_{-16}$	$126 \pm 15^{+37}_{-41}$	$7.2 \pm 1.0^{+4.0}_{-2.0}$
All $Z_{cs}(1^+)$				$25 \pm 5^{+11}_{-12}$
$Z_{cs}(4000)$	15 (16)	$4003 \pm 6^{+4}_{-14}$	$131 \pm 15 \pm 26$	$9.4 \pm 2.1 \pm 3.4$
$Z_{cs}(4220)$	5.9 (8.4)	$4216 \pm 24^{+43}_{-30}$	$233 \pm 52^{+97}_{-73}$	$10 \pm 4^{+10}_{-7}$

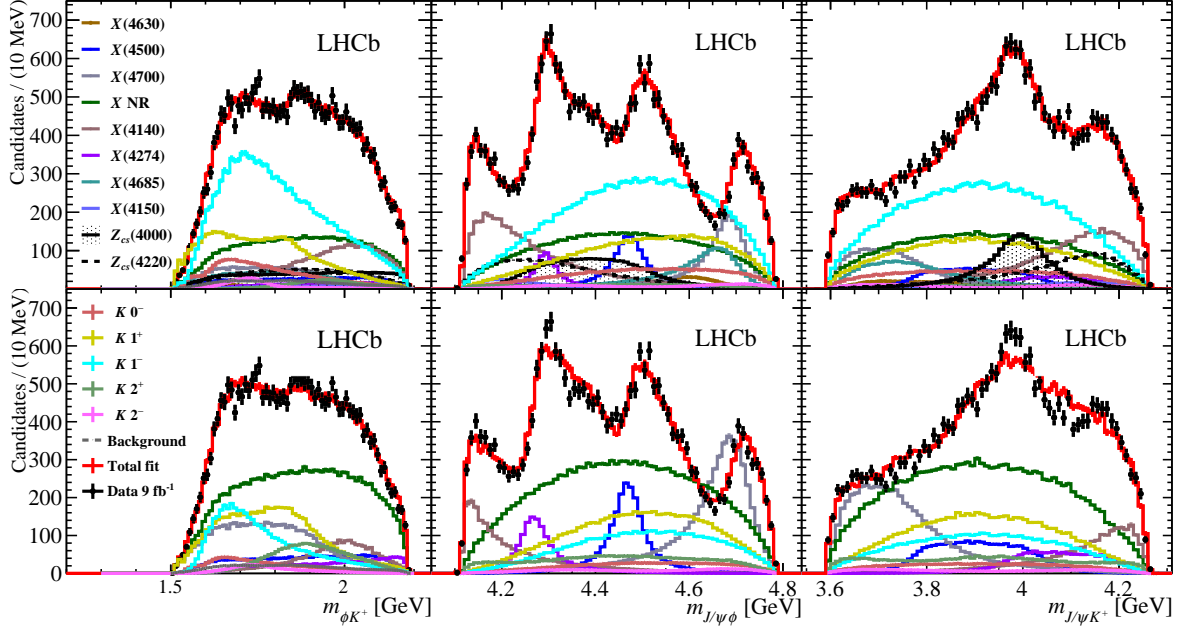


Figure 3: Distributions of ϕK^+ (left), $J/\psi \phi$ (middle) and $J/\psi K^+$ (right) invariant masses for the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ candidates (black data points) compared with the fit results (red solid lines) of the default model (top row) and the Run 1 model (bottom row).

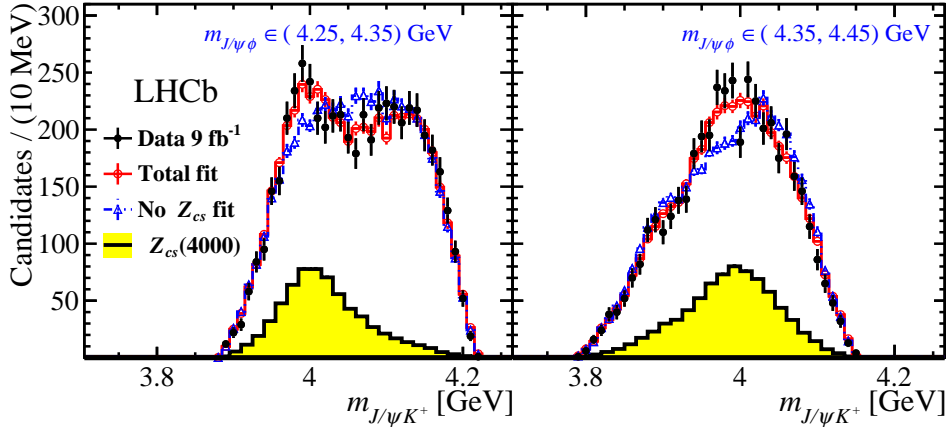


Figure 4: Fit projections onto $m_{J/\psi K^+}$ in two slices of $m_{J/\psi \phi}$ for the default model with and without the $1^+ Z_{cs}^+$ states. The narrow Z_{cs}^+ state at 4 GeV is evident.

Fig. 3 shows the invariant mass distributions for all pairs of final state particles of the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ decay with fit projections from the amplitude analysis overlaid, for both the default model and the Run 1 model. The fit results are summarised in Table 1, including mass, width, fit fraction (FF), and significance of each component. The masses and widths of the four X states studied using the LHCb Run 1 sample only are consistent with the previous measurements [14, 15]. The significance of each component is evaluated by assuming that the change of twice the log-likelihood between the default fit and the fit without this component follows a χ^2 distribution. The corresponding number of degrees of freedom is equal to the reduction in the number of free parameters multiplied by a factor

of two (one) when the mass and width of the component are floated (fixed) in the fit, which accounts for the look-elsewhere effect [15, 33], as validated by pseudoexperiments. Fig. 4 shows the $m_{J/\psi K^+}$ distributions in two slices of $m_{J/\psi\phi}$, which demonstrate the need for the narrower $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ state. Including the 1^+ Z_{cs}^+ states improves the χ^2/nbin from 84/35 to 43/35 (left slice), and from 79/37 to 32/37 (right slice), where nbin is the number of non-zero bins.

The spin and parity of each exotic state is probed by testing alternative J^P hypotheses and comparing the fit likelihood values [15]. The J^P assignments for the previously reported four X states are confirmed with high significance. A 1^+ assignment is favoured for the new $X(4685)$ state with also high significance, but the quantum numbers of the $X(4150)$ and $X(4630)$ are less well determined. The best hypothesis for the $X(4630)$ state is 1^- over 2^- at a 3σ level. The other hypotheses are ruled out by more than 5σ . The fit prefers 2^- for the $X(4150)$ state by more than 4σ . The narrower $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ state is determined to be 1^+ with high significance. The broader $Z_{cs}(4220)^+$ state could be 1^+ or 1^- , with a 2σ difference in favour of the first hypothesis. Other spin-parity assignments are ruled out at 4.9σ level.

Systematic uncertainties are estimated for the masses, widths, and fit fractions of the exotic states, as well as for those K^{*+} states with mass and width being free parameters in the default amplitude model. To probe the effects from the neglected non- ϕ contributions, the ϕ mass window is changed from ± 15 MeV to ± 7 MeV, and alternatively this background is subtracted using the *sPlot* technique [34]. The Blatt-Weisskopf barrier [15] hadron size is varied between 1.5 and 4.5 GeV^{-1} . The default NR 0^+ $J/\psi\phi$ representation is changed from a constant to a linear polynomial, multiplied by the Blatt-Weisskopf barrier factors. Optional 1^+ or 2^+ NR $J/\psi\phi$ contributions are also included. The smallest allowed orbital angular momentum in the resonance function is varied. For the $X(4140)$, which peaks near the $J/\psi\phi$ threshold, the Flatté model [35] is used instead of the Breit-Wigner amplitude. A simplified one-channel K-matrix model [2] is used to describe various K^* resonances instead of the sum of Breit-Wigner amplitudes. Two-channel K-matrix models have also been tried for the 2^1P_1 and 2^3P_1 K^* states with the coupled-channel thresholds opening up near 1.75 GeV, with an insignificant improvement to the description of the $m_{\phi K}$ distribution. An extended model is tested by adding five more K^{*+} resonances, which are predicted in the allowed ϕK^+ mass range. The presence of an extra X state contribution, with J from 0 to 2, to the extended model is also checked. The difference between the results obtained from assigning 1^+ or 1^- hypotheses to the $Z_{cs}(4220)^+$ is taken as a systematic uncertainty. The mass-dependent width in the denominator of the Breit-Wigner function for the K^{*+} resonances is calculated with the lightest allowed channel (πK for natural spin-parity resonances and ωK for others) instead of ϕK .

The maximum deviation among the modelling uncertainties discussed above is summed in quadrature with the additional sources listed below. The uncertainties due to the fixed masses and widths of the known K^{*+} resonances are estimated by varying them within their known uncertainties [2]. To probe the effect of mismodelling the χ^2_{IP} of the B^+ candidate, this quantity is smeared such that the simulated distribution matches the one in the data. The uncertainty in the combinatorial background fraction is estimated by varying the background shape in the B^+ mass fit. The uncertainty in the background PDF model is estimated by using either the low or high B^+ mass sideband instead of both. The effect due to the finite size of the simulation samples is estimated using a bootstrap method [36]. For the $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ state, the largest systematic contribution is

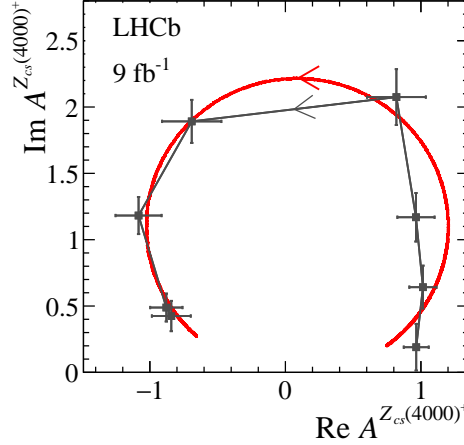


Figure 5: Fitted values of the $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ amplitude in eight $m_{J/\psi K^+}$ intervals, shown on an Argand diagram (black points). The red curve represents the expected Breit-Wigner behaviour between $-1.4\Gamma_0$ to $1.4\Gamma_0$ around the $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ mass.

due to the J^P hypotheses of the $Z_{cs}(4220)^+$ state. The summary of fit results, including the systematic uncertainties, is listed in Table 1. The smallest significance found when varying each of sources is taken as the significance accounting for systematic uncertainty.

Further evidence for the resonant character of $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ is observed in Fig. 5, showing the evolution of the complex amplitude on the Argand diagram, obtained with the same method as previously reported for the $Z_c(4430)^-$ state [7]. The magnitude and phase have approximately circular evolution with $m_{J/\psi K^+}$ in the counter-clockwise direction, as expected for a resonance.

The BESIII experiment reported observation of the threshold structure in the $D_s^- D^{*0} + D_s^{*-} D^0$ mass distribution [13]. When interpreted as a resonance, called $Z_{cs}(3985)^-$, its mass $3982.5^{+1.8}_{-2.6}(\text{stat}) \pm 2.1(\text{syst})$ MeV is consistent with the 1^+ $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ state observed in this analysis, but with significantly narrower width $12.8^{+5.3}_{-4.4}(\text{stat}) \pm 3.0(\text{syst})$ MeV. When fixing the mass and width of this state to the nominal BESIII result in the amplitude fit to our data, the twice the log-likelihood is worse by 160 units. The narrower width is also not supported by an alternative Flatté model with parameters obtained from our data. Therefore, there is no evidence that the $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ state observed here is as same as the $Z_{cs}(3985)^-$ state observed by BESIII.

In conclusion, an improved full amplitude analysis of the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi \phi K^+$ decay is performed using 6 times larger signal yield than previously analyzed [14]. A relatively narrow $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ state decaying to $J/\psi K^+$ with mass $4003 \pm 6(\text{stat})^{+4}_{-14}(\text{syst})$ MeV and width $131 \pm 15(\text{stat}) \pm 26(\text{syst})$ MeV is observed with large significance. Its spin-parity is determined to be 1^+ also with high significance. A quasi-model-independent representation of the $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$ contribution in the fit shows a phase change in the amplitude consistent with that of a resonance. A broader 1^+ or 1^- $Z_{cs}(4220)^+$ state is also required at 5.9σ . This is the first observation of states with hidden charm and strangeness that decay to the $J/\psi K^+$ final state. The four X states decaying to $J/\psi \phi$ observed in the Run 1 analysis [14] are confirmed with higher significance, together with their quantum number assignments. An additional 1^+ $X(4685)$ state is observed with relatively narrow width (about 125 MeV) with high significance. A new $X(4630)$ state is observed with a 5.5σ significance, with

preferred 1^- over 2^- spin-parity assignment at 3σ level, and the other J^P hypotheses rejected at 5σ . This constitutes the first observation of exotic states with a new quark content $c\bar{c}u\bar{s}$ decaying to the $J/\psi K^+$ final state.

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